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Mystery oil



If Russia is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma, oil from Russia is a secret, swathed in an offshore company, encased in pipelines of uncertain provenance. The Czech oil crisis disappeared as suddenly as it appeared, and no one this side of the Carpathians admits to having any explanation for what happened. On the other side of the mountains, the explanations are plentiful, but none is satisfying. Vladimir Putin blamed it on unnamed offshore companies; Vice PM Igor Sechin blamed it on the Ukrainians for forcing Russian companies to look for new delivery routes, and for good measure, he blamed it on the Czechs for not signing a bilateral memo on the governmental level; Tatneft blamed it on the Turks for paying more than the Czechs. All's well that ends well, but not if the Czechs have no clue as to what caused the crisis or whether it can happen again at the drop of a fur hat.

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